United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

EPA Proposes Cleanup Plan for Radioactive Contamination

Kerr-McGee Kress Creek/West Branch DuPage River Site
Kerr-McGee Sewage Treatment Plant Site
DuPage County, Illinois May 2004

Share your comments

Please plan to attend the upcoming public meeting:

Date: **Wednesday, June 2, 2004**
Time: **7 - 9 p.m.**
Location: **Warrenville City Hall**
28W701 Stafford Place
Warrenville, Ill.

Or see the back page of this document to learn how to review project information at:

Warrenville Public Library
West Chicago Public Library
EPA Records Center

EPA will accept written or e-mail comments on its final cleanup plan during a 30-day public comment period: **May 26 - June 25, 2004**

Send to:

EPA Region 5
Attn: Stuart Hill (P-19J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604
e-mail: hill.stuart@epa.gov

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is proposing removing radioactive sediment (river mud) and soil to clean up the contamination in Kress Creek and the West Branch DuPage River and floodplain areas of the creek and river. The proposed cleanup of the creek and river would involve digging up the contaminated sediment and soil and shipping it to a permanent radioactive waste disposal site. EPA also is proposing that no further cleanup action be taken at the West Chicago Sewage Treatment Plant property after the ongoing cleanup of radioactive soil there is completed. The purpose of this proposed plan is to provide basic background information about the sites, describe the various cleanup options considered, and identify the preferred cleanup alternative.

Area residents have 30 days to comment on EPA's proposed plan. See the adjacent box to find out how your opinion can be heard. EPA, in consultation with Illinois EPA, will select final cleanup plans for the sites after reviewing and considering all public comments. Public comments on this proposed plan and the information that supports it are important contributions to the selection of final cleanup plans for the sites. Members of the public are encouraged to review the supporting documents such as the remedial investigation, the feasibility study, and the human health and ecological risk assessment reports. The remedial investigation studies the nature and extent of contamination at the sites, and the feasibility study compares cleanup options for the sites. The risk assessment looks at the potential risks to human health and the environment from the contamination at the sites. These reports and other documents can be reviewed at the two information repositories located near the sites: the West Chicago Public Library and the Warrenville Public Library. Documents also are available for review at EPA's Records Center at 77 W. Jackson Blvd. in Chicago (see page 11 for additional information).

Background of sites

The Kress Creek/West Branch DuPage River site is located in DuPage County, Ill., about 30 miles west of Chicago, and includes almost seven miles of creek and river sediment, banks and floodplain soils contaminated with radioactive thorium residue. The Kress Creek site includes about a mile and a half of Kress Creek stretching from a storm sewer outlet to where the creek empties into the West Branch DuPage River. From there the site stretches about five miles down the West Branch DuPage River past the Warrenville Dam to the McDowell Dam. The site is shown in the figure on page 3. Land use along the creek and river is a mixture of residential areas, parks, county forest preserves, and property owned by religious groups and government entities.

The sewage treatment plant site is located in West Chicago, also in DuPage County. The sewage treatment plant site is divided into two different parts: an upland portion and a river portion. The upland portion of the site consists of the West Chicago Sewage Treatment Plant, which is owned and operated by the city of West Chicago and located northeast of the intersection of Illinois Routes 59 and 38. The river portion of the site consists of a little over a mile of the West Branch DuPage River from the northern edge of the sewage treatment plant property to where Kress Creek joins the river. The site is shown in the figure on page 3. Land use along the river portion of the site is mostly recreational, but there are some homes and a church on the eastern side of the river south of the sewage treatment plant.

Portions of both the Kress Creek site and the sewage treatment plant site are contaminated with the radioactive thorium residue. The residue came from a facility in West Chicago that processed radioactive thorium from 1931 through 1973. The facility originally was owned by Lindsay Light and Chemical Co. but changed hands several times. Kerr-McGee owned and operated the facility from 1967 to 1973 when it closed the plant. Thorium and other elements were separated from ores at the plant using an acid process. The Kerr-McGee facility is not part of the Kress Creek site and is being cleaned up under the supervision of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, Division of Nuclear Safety.

Over many years, thorium-contaminated soil particles from the Kerr-McGee facility entered a nearby storm sewer during rainstorms and traveled to Kress Creek. From there the pollution moved downstream in the creek and into the West Branch DuPage River, settling into the creek and river sediment along the way. The thorium was also deposited onto floodplains during high water periods. The source of the pollution has been controlled so no more thorium is entering the creek.

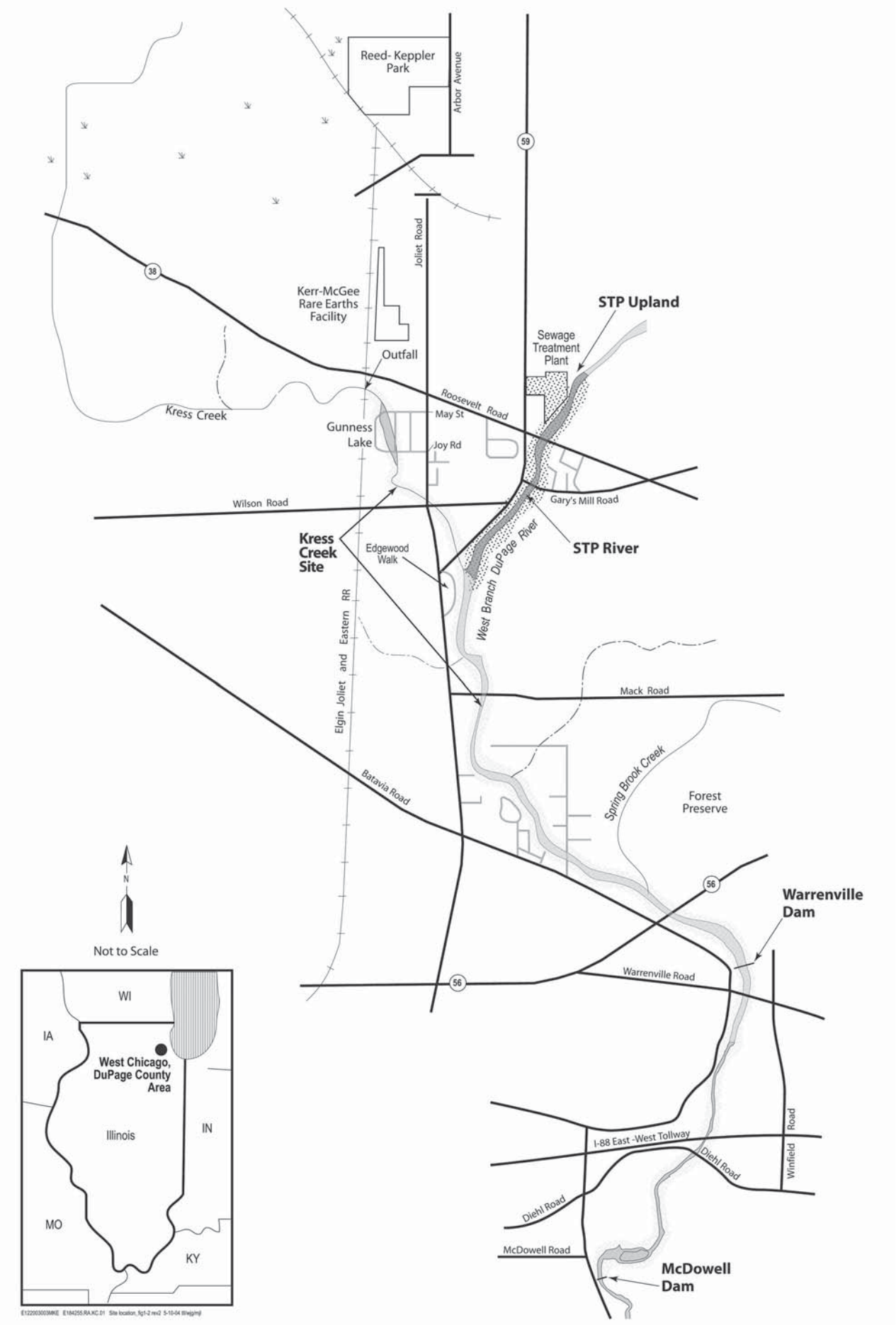
The sewage treatment plant became contaminated when radioactive thorium residuals from the Kerr-McGee facility were hauled to the treatment facility and used as fill material. Some of the contamination then entered the West Branch DuPage River adjacent to the sewage treatment plant property due to erosion and surface water runoff during rainstorms.

Radioactivity surveys performed in the West Chicago area by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and EPA resulted in EPA placing the sewage treatment plant and Kress Creek sites on the Agency's National Priorities List in 1990 and 1991. The National Priorities List is a roster of Superfund sites nationwide. In 1993 EPA began looking at the Kress Creek and sewage treatment plant sites, a process known as a remedial investigation. In 1997, as a result of negotiations between Kerr-McGee and the city of West Chicago, Kerr-McGee began more extensive investigations at the sites. EPA suspended its work at the sites in 1998 at the request of Kerr-McGee and the city. Kerr-McGee continued its extensive site investigation work for several years while continuing to negotiate with the city and other local entities over the cleanups. As a result of the extensive studies and negotiations, Kerr-McGee and the local communities agreed on a cleanup proposal and presented it to EPA. Kerr-McGee then officially took over the remedial investigation and feasibility study from EPA in a written agreement reached in late 2003. The remedial investigation and feasibility study reports prepared by Kerr-McGee include data collected by both EPA and Kerr-McGee.

No cleanup actions have occurred at the Kress Creek site, but some residential properties along the creek were cleaned up in the mid-1990s as part of a separate residential cleanup program. Cleanup actions have also occurred at the upland portion of the sewage treatment plant site. During 1986 and 1987, Kerr-McGee removed about 57,000 cubic yards of contaminated material from the sewage treatment plant as part of a voluntary cleanup action. No cleanup was done along the river banks or in the river, however. In late 2003, Kerr-McGee reached a written agreement with EPA to remove another 4,000 cubic yards of contamination from the sewage treatment plant that was not addressed during the earlier cleanup. This cleanup started in October 2003 and is expected to be completed this spring. When the removal is completed, radiation levels at the upland portion of the sewage treatment plant site will be well within safe levels. Contamination still remains, however, at the river portion of the site.

Nature and extent of contamination

The contamination at the sites consists primarily of radioactive thorium, but also includes smaller amounts of uranium and some metals such as arsenic and lead that were in the ores processed at the Kerr-McGee facility. Thorium and uranium both are naturally-occurring elements that radioactively decay to produce other elements. Thorium decays to produce radium-228 and uranium decays to produce radium-226. The concentrations of radium-228 and radium-226 (together


Reed- Keppler Park
Arbor Avenue
59
Joliet Road
38
Kerr-McGee Rare Earths Facility
Outfall
STP Upland
Sewage Treatment Plant
Kress Creek
Roosevelt Road
May St
Gunness Lake
Joy Rd
Wilson Road
Gary's Mill Road
Kress Creek Site
Edgewood Walk
STP River
West Branch DuPage River
Elgin Joliet and Eastern RR
Mack Road
Batavia Road
Spring Brook Creek
Forest Preserve
56
Warrenville Dam
Warrenville Road
I-88 East -West Tollway
Diehl Road
Winfield Road
McDowell Road
McDowell Dam
N
Not to Scale
WI
IA
West Chicago, DuPage County Area
Illinois
IN
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KY

known as “total radium”) often are combined for comparison to cleanup standards. Levels of radioactivity in soil and sediment are expressed in picoCuries per gram (pCi/g), which is a measure of the concentration of radioactivity in each gram of soil or sediment.

EPA’s testing at the sites included surface radioactivity surveys and samples of soil, sediment, surface water and fish tissue. EPA also collected ground water samples from the upland portion of the sewage treatment plant site. Kerr-McGee’s testing at the sites consisted of extensive surface radioactivity surveys of sediment, banks and floodplains, and the collection of some soil and sediment samples. At the upland portion of the sewage treatment plant site, Kerr-McGee conducted further investigations at various locations based on information from EPA’s testing and other historical information. At the Kress Creek site and the river portion of the sewage treatment plant site, Kerr-McGee conducted delineation drilling and downhole gamma logging if elevated readings were detected during the surface radioactivity surveys.

Downhole gamma logging consisted of lowering a small radiation detector down a hole and taking radiation readings at each 6-inch interval for a minimum of 3 feet. If contamination was still detected at the 3-foot level, Kerr-McGee extended the depth of the readings until the bottom of the contaminated layer was located. At all areas where contamination was identified, additional nearby locations were drilled as needed until the sideways and vertical extent of each contaminated section was defined.

In all, Kerr-McGee conducted delineation drilling and downhole gamma logging at nearly 14,000 locations at the Kress Creek/West Branch DuPage River site, and at more than 2,400 locations at the sewage treatment plant site, including more than 1,600 in the river and nearly 800 on the sewage treatment plant property. The testing in the creek and river included testing of the sediment at the bottom of the streams as well as the stream banks and adjacent floodplains.

The extent of the contamination is shown on the figure on pages 6 and 7. Kerr-McGee is conducting additional testing at the Kress Creek site in most of the 2-mile stretch between the Warrenville Dam and the McDowell Dam. EPA expects to have those test results before making the final cleanup decision.

At the Kress Creek site, the highest concentrations of radioactivity are found near the storm sewer outlet and the concentrations generally decrease in the downstream direction. Concentrations as high as 897 pCi/g combined

Warrenville Dam on the West Branch DuPage River

radium were found near the outlet. The highest concentration in the river was 402 pCi/g at a location just downstream from where the creek joins the river. For comparison, the highest radioactivity in the farthest downstream portion of the site, near the McDowell Dam, was 31 pCi/g. Overall, the average concentration of contamination was about 41 pCi/g in the creek and about 26 pCi/g in the river.

At the sewage treatment plant site, the highest concentration of radioactivity in the soil on the upland portion of the site was 1,389 pCi/g and the average was 18 pCi/g. These contaminated areas are being dug up and removed under the current cleanup agreement with Kerr-McGee and should be completed this spring. When that work is done, radiation levels will be well within safe levels and the upland portion of the site will no longer be a source of contamination into the river. The highest concentration of radioactivity found in the river portion of the sewage treatment plant site was 588 pCi/g and the average concentration of the contaminated areas was about 21 pCi/g.

The studies also found that some of the contamination at the sites is covered with a layer of clean materials, known as overburden, that has been deposited on top of the contamination over the years. This is especially true for the sediment located in the wide, slow-moving portions of the river immediately upstream of both the Warrenville and McDowell dams. If the dams were ever removed or if they failed, however, these areas of buried sediment would be re-exposed and would be transported further downstream.

While some metals were detected at the site, they do not pose serious risks and are located in the same areas as the

radioactive contamination. This means that any thorium cleanup will also take care of metal concentrations.

Explaining site health risks

EPA conducted a study to find out the potential health risks to people from the radioactive contamination. The main health risk associated with radioactivity is the increased chance of getting cancer. The study estimated the number of cancer cases that could arise over and above the usual number of cases expected in this part of Illinois.

For the Kress Creek site, EPA's study assumed two different uses of the site: recreational use and residential use. Even though there are residential areas along the creek and river, none of the homes are built on or surrounded by contaminated areas. The study, however, assumed such a situation so it could make worst-case estimates. The study also made assumptions that people would be exposed to the contamination at the site in several different ways, including direct exposure to the gamma radiation (which is similar to x-rays), inhaling and ingesting contaminated soil particles, inhaling radon gas (indoors), eating fruits and vegetables grown in contaminated soil, and eating fish from the creek and river. EPA determined the increased risk of getting cancer from exposure to the radioactive contamination was as high as two potential additional cases of cancer for every 1,000 people exposed under a recreational scenario, assuming 30 years of exposure. For the residential scenario, the increased risk of getting cancer was as high as two potential additional cases of cancer for every 100 people exposed over 30 years. EPA considers this amount of risk unacceptable so it can legally require the creek and river sediment and floodplain soils be cleaned up. EPA also determined there is a potential for animals to be harmed.

For the sewage treatment plant site, EPA's study evaluated separately the risks from the upland portion and the river portion of the site. For the river portion, EPA used the same assumptions as for Kress Creek's recreational use and residential use. EPA determined the increased risk of getting cancer from exposure to the radioactive contamination was as high as six potential additional cases of cancer for every 10,000 people exposed under a recreational scenario, assuming 30 years of exposure. For the residential scenario, the increased risk of getting cancer was as high as six potential additional cases of cancer for every 1,000 people exposed. This level of risk is also unacceptable for people and the environment, so EPA can legally require a cleanup.

For the upland portion of the sewage treatment plant site, EPA assumed three different uses: a maintenance worker at the site, a construction worker at the site, and a future resident living on the site. EPA determined that cancer risks from the radioactive contamination at the site exceeded the acceptable risk range for both the maintenance worker scenario and the future residential scenario. The radioactive contamination at the upland portion of the site, however, currently is being cleaned up to reduce the radioactive concentrations and the associated health risks. When the cleanup at the upland portion of the site is completed this spring, the levels there will be safe for humans and animals.

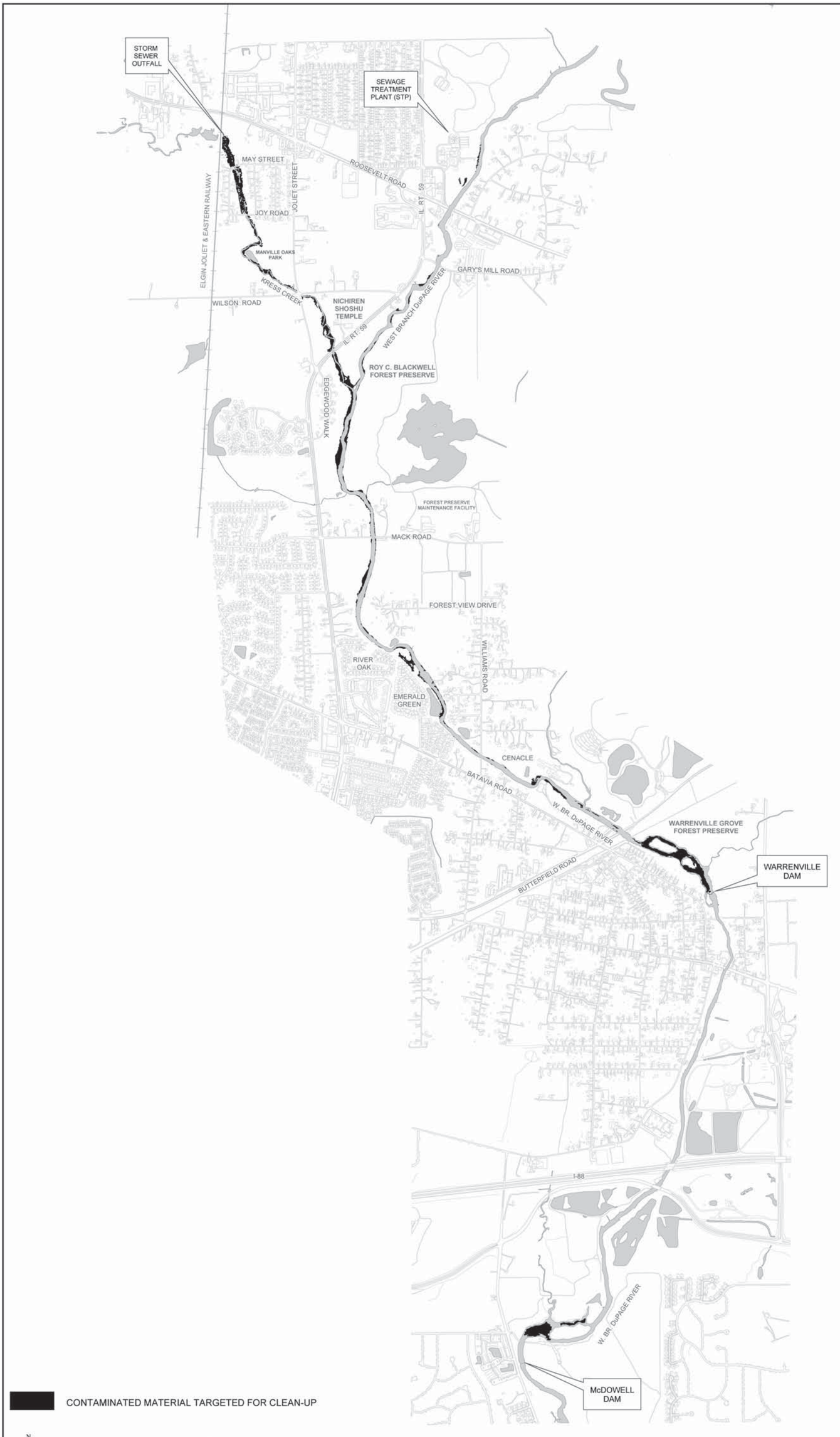
More detailed information about the risk calculations can be found in the human health risk assessment report and the ecological risk assessment report for the sites.

Cleanup goals

There are two main goals for site cleanup. The first and most important goal is to reduce the risks to human health and the environment caused by the radioactive contamination in sediment, banks and floodplain soils. This goal will be achieved by removing contamination from the Kress Creek site and the river portion of the sewage treatment plant site and meeting the cleanup standard for the sites. The cleanup standard is 7.2 pCi/g combined radium and is based on federal and state standards of 5 pCi/g above background, with average background levels at the sites of 2.2 pCi/g. This is the same cleanup standard used for the cleanup of contaminated residential properties in the West Chicago area.

The second goal is to lower potential adverse effects to the environment that will be caused by the physical cleanup activities at the site. The cleanup will disturb areas of the creek, river and adjacent banks and floodplain areas. These areas will be restored as close as practical to their pre-excavation conditions.

The current cleanup Kerr-McGee is conducting at the upland portion of the sewage treatment plant site is meeting the cleanup goals by removing contamination and lowering radioactivity to the 7.2 pCi/g cleanup standard. As part of the cleanup, the upland portion of the site is being restored to its pre-excavation conditions. EPA is proposing that no further action be taken at the upland portion of the sewage treatment plant site after completion of the current cleanup there. As a result, EPA did not



The area between Warrenville and McDowell dams is currently being tested for contamination.

evaluate any additional cleanup choices for the upland portion of the site.

Cleanup choices evaluated

EPA considered different cleanup choices for addressing radioactive sediment and soil at the Kress Creek site and the river portion of the sewage treatment plant site. Through a screening process described in the feasibility study, four cleanup options were selected for further evaluation:

1. No Action

This choice means that no cleanup actions would be taken. The radioactive sediment and soil would be left in place in the creek, river and floodplain without any cleanup remedy. No monitoring would be conducted to assess the overall condition of the sites over time. The no-action option is required by law to provide a baseline against which other cleanup choices can be evaluated.
Cost: $0

2. Monitored Natural Recovery

This choice involves recovery of the sites through naturally-occurring processes as a way of reducing risk at the sites over time. Given the long time frame of radioactive decay (with thorium having a half-life of 14 billion years), the natural process of radioactive decay will not be an effective way to reduce risk at the sites. As a result, this option would rely on physical processes within the creek and river, such as erosion, sedimentation and deposition, to cover areas of pollution with clean materials over time. The progress of natural recovery would be tracked over time through long-term monitoring, and land use restrictions would probably be necessary to control exposures to people during the recovery period.
Cost: $400,000 ($350,000 for the Kress Creek site and $50,000 for the river portion of the sewage treatment plant site)

3. Excavation and Off-Site Disposal of Targeted Sediment/Soil Throughout the Sites

(This is EPA's preferred cleanup option for the Kress Creek site and the river portion of the sewage treatment plant site.)

This choice involves digging up and removing targeted materials from the sites and sending them off-site for disposal. Targeted materials mean any sediment, banks or floodplain soils above the cleanup standard of 7.2 pCi/g. Targeted materials would be removed using mechanical excavation equipment such as backhoes. The targeted areas would first be isolated or contained using silt curtains, sand bags, earthen berms, or sheetpiling, depending on the situation at each location. Each targeted area would then be "dewatered" by pumping out the water to allow dry excavation. Throughout the creek and river, the cleanup would be done one section at a time, and each section would be completed before starting the next section.

The cleanup would start at the upstream end of the sites and proceed downstream. In areas where clean overburden materials currently cover the targeted materials, the overburden would be dug up first, followed by the contamination. Targeted materials would be excavated to predetermined depths based on the extensive data from the sites, and excavation depths would be verified. Excavated overburden materials would be radiologically verified to make sure they were indeed clean before using them as backfill. Excavated targeted materials would be shipped off-site for disposal. This option would use engineering controls (such as dust control techniques) and monitoring of the air and water to evaluate and control short-term effects during the cleanup. Because all the contamination above the cleanup standard would be removed under this option, no land-use restrictions or long-term operation and maintenance would be needed.

For the Kress Creek site, an estimated 75,000 cubic yards of targeted materials would be removed under this option, and an additional 47,000 cubic yards of clean overburden would have to be dug up to reach the targeted materials. For the river portion of the sewage treatment plant site, an estimated 2,200 cubic yards of targeted materials would be removed under this option, and an additional 1,100

Canoe Launch at McDowell Grove Forest Preserve

Explanation of the nine evaluation criteria

EPA uses the following nine criteria to evaluate the cleanup alternatives. A table comparing the alternatives against these criteria is provided on page 10.

1. Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment. Evaluates whether a cleanup option provides adequate protection and evaluates how risks are eliminated, reduced or controlled through treatment, engineering controls or local government controls.

2. Compliance with Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements. Evaluates whether a cleanup option meets federal and state environmental laws, regulations and other requirements or justifies any waivers.

3. Long-Term Effectiveness and Permanence. Considers any remaining risks after a cleanup is complete and the ability of a cleanup option to maintain reliable protection of human health and the environment over time once cleanup goals are met.

4. Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility, or Volume Through Treatment. Evaluates a cleanup option's use of treatment to reduce the harmful effects of the contaminants, their ability to move in the environment and the amount of contamination present.

5. Short-Term Effectiveness. Considers the time needed to clean up a site and the risks a cleanup option may pose to workers, the community and the environment until the cleanup goals are met.

6. Implementability. Evaluates the technical and administrative feasibility of implementing a cleanup option and includes factors such as the relative availability of goods and services.

7. Cost. Includes estimated capital and annual operations and maintenance costs as well as the present worth cost. Present worth cost is the total cost of an alternative over time in terms of today's dollar value.

8. State Acceptance. Considers whether the state agrees with EPA's analyses and recommendations as described in the remedial investigation and feasibility study reports and EPA's proposed cleanup plan.

9. Community Acceptance. Considers whether the local community agrees with EPA's analyses and proposed cleanup plan. The comments that EPA receives on its proposal are an important indicator of community acceptance.

cubic yards of clean overburden would have to be dug up to reach the targeted materials. This cleanup would take about three years to complete.

Cost: $73.7 million ($71.9 million for the Kress Creek site and $1.8 million for the river portion of the sewage treatment plant site)

4. Capping of Targeted Sediment/Soil Throughout the Sites

This choice involves covering targeted materials with a cap of clean soil in certain portions of the creek, river and floodplain. Building a cap in the creek or river could potentially make the stream more shallow, which would reduce the stream's ability to transport floodwaters. Building a cap in floodplain areas also could reduce the flood-carrying capacity of the streams. To avoid this problem, this option involves excavating and removing the top of some contaminated areas. This would make the areas deep enough for a cap while maintaining the stream's existing capacity to carry floodwaters. In areas with shallow contamination, this means that all the targeted materials would be dug up and no cap would be needed. Other areas of deeper contamination would be covered with clean soil. Some areas of deeper contamination that already are covered with clean soil would not need to be disturbed. For sediment in the creek and river, an additional layer of stone would be put on top of the soil cap to help keep it in place over time.

This option would prevent direct contact of the radioactive contamination with humans and wildlife and would prevent the contamination from moving to another location. The excavation and capping work would be done dry as in Option 3, and excavated targeted materials would be shipped off-site for disposal. As in Option 3, engineering controls and monitoring of the air and water would be used to evaluate and control short-term effects of the cleanup. Because some contamination above the cleanup standard would remain at the sites, land-use restrictions would be needed to maintain the soil cap over time. This option also would require long-term monitoring and maintenance of the capped areas.

For the Kress Creek site, an estimated 21 acres would be capped, including 9 acres of sediment and 12 acres in the floodplain; approximately 49,000 cubic yards of targeted materials and 33,000 cubic yards of overburden materials would have to be removed to allow the cap to be installed. For the river portion of the sewage treatment plant site, an estimated 1 acre would be capped, almost all of that in the floodplain, with less than one one-hundredth of an acre

Cleanup Choices	Evaluation Criteria for Kress Creek Site and River Portion of Sewage Treatment Plant Site								
	1. Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment	2. Compliance with Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements	3. Long-Term Effectiveness and Permanence	4. Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility, or Volume Through Treatment	5. Short-Term Effectiveness	6. Implementability	7. Cost	8. State Acceptance	9. Community Acceptance
1	□	□	□	□	■	■	$0	Will be evaluated after the public comment period	Will be evaluated after the public comment period
2	▒	▒	▒	▒	■	■	$0.4 million		
3	■	■	■	▒	▒	■	$73.7 million		
4	■	▒	▒	▒	▒	■	$67.1 million		

■ Meets Criterion ▒ Partially Meets Criterion □ Does Not Meet Criterion

of sediment capped. Approximately 2,100 cubic yards of targeted materials and 1,100 cubic yards of overburden materials would need to be removed to allow the cap to be installed. This cleanup would take approximately three years to complete.

Cost: $67.1 million ($65.5 million for the Kress Creek site and $1.6 million for the river portion of the sewage treatment plant site)

Evaluation of alternatives

EPA evaluated the cleanup choices against seven of the nine evaluation criteria (see "Explanation of the nine evaluation criteria" on page 9). The state and community acceptance criteria will be evaluated after public comments are received by EPA. The degree to which the cleanup choices meet the evaluation criteria, as determined by EPA, is shown in the table above. More detailed information about the evaluation can be found in the feasibility study report for the sites.

EPA's recommended cleanup plan

For the upland portion of the sewage treatment plant site, EPA is proposing that no further action be taken after completion of the current cleanup expected this spring. The current cleanup is meeting the cleanup goals by removing contamination from the site and meeting the 7.2 pCi/g cleanup standard. As part of the cleanup, the upland portion of the site is being restored to its pre-excavation conditions.

For the Kress Creek site and the river portion of the sewage treatment plant site, EPA evaluated four cleanup options against the nine criteria described in the box to the left. As a result of this evaluation, EPA's proposed choice is Option 3: Excavation and Off-Site Disposal of Targeted Sediment/Soil throughout the sites (see page 8 for a complete explanation of this option). Option 3 would address the principle threats at the sites and reduce risks to human health and the environment through removal of the targeted materials. Option 3 also would meet the 7.2 pCi/g cleanup standard for the sites, a level considered safe and used during the cleanup of hundreds of residential properties in the West Chicago area. Option 3 is the only cleanup alternative that can be considered truly protective of human health and the environment for the long term, especially considering the long-lived nature of the radioactive thorium contamination. Options 1 and 2 are not desirable because they would leave all contaminated materials in place at the sites and would not achieve protectiveness in a reasonable amount of

time. This is because it would take a very long time for the naturally-occurring processes at the sites (such as erosion, sedimentation and redeposition) to cover the areas of contamination with clean materials. Option 4 could be protective but would leave some contaminated materials in place and would require monitoring and maintenance of the capped areas for an unrealistically long period of time. Over time, catastrophic events (such as severe floods or failure/removal of the Warrenville and McDowell dams) could affect the capped areas and re-expose contaminated areas. Given the long-lived nature of the thorium contamination, the long-term effectiveness of Option 4 is therefore questionable. Overall, Option 3 is the best cleanup option for the sites and costs only about 10 percent more than Option 4.

Option 3 also would meet the goal of lowering potential adverse effects to the environment caused by the physical cleanup activities at the sites. Disturbed areas would be restored as close as practical to their pre-excavation conditions, except that most creek and river bed areas would not be backfilled with clean material after the contamination is removed. Removing layers of fine-grained sediment that have built up over the years in the creek and river will create a better place for fish and other aquatic organisms to live. In-stream structures or other features that provide habitat for fish would be documented and reconstructed as part of the cleanup.

The Illinois EPA and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency/Division of Nuclear Safety have indicated that they support Option 3. Kerr-McGee and the local community governments also favor this cleanup option.

Next Steps

EPA will consider all public comments received during the public comment period before choosing a final cleanup plan for the sites. A public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 2, 2004, from 7 - 9 p.m. (see page 1). All comments received during the public comment period will be addressed in a responsiveness summary which will be included in the final decision document for each site, called a record of decision. The record of decision for each site will be available for public review.

To review additional project information visit . . .

West Chicago Public Library
118 W. Washington St.
West Chicago, Ill.

Warrenville Public Library
28W751 Stafford Place
Warrenville, Ill.

EPA Records Center
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Ill.

Or contact:

Rebecca Frey, (312) 886-4760
Stuart Hill, (312) 886-0689
Toll free: (800) 621-8431, weekdays 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Mailing list additions

If you did not get this fact sheet in the mail and would like to be added to the project mailing list, please make a note on the enclosed comment form and return it to EPA.

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Region 5
Office of Public Affairs (P-19J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

FIRST CLASS

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

KERR-MCGEE KRESS CREEK/WEST BRANCH DUPAGE RIVER SITE;
KERR-MCGEE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT SITE:
EPA Proposes Cleanup Plan for Radioactive Contamination

This fact sheet is printed on paper made of recycled fibers.

EPA Proposes Cleanup Plan for Kerr-McGee Sites

Radioactive sediment and soil
to be removed from Kress Creek,
West Branch DuPage River

(details inside)

Comment Sheet

EPA is interested in your comments on the proposed cleanup plan for radioactive contamination at the Kerr-McGee Kress Creek/West Branch DuPage River and Sewage Treatment Plant sites. Please use the space below to write your comments, then fold and mail this form. Comments must be postmarked by June 25, 2004. You may also submit your comments to Stuart Hill at hill.stuart@epa.gov, or fax at (312) 353-1155. In addition to mailing, faxing, or e-mailing your comments, you may also submit them in person between 7 and 9 p.m. at the June 2, 2004 public meeting being held at the Warrenville City Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Stuart Hill at (800) 621-8431 Ext. 60689 or direct at (312) 886-0689.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Fold on Dashed Lines, Tape, Stamp, and Mail

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